

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

For Release:
July 26, 2005

Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Stephen Myers
(202) 224-6207

SENATE PASSES ALLARD BILL CREATING RIO GRANDE NATURAL AREA IN SOUTHERN COLORADO

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard’s legislation to establish the Rio Grande National Area in southern Colorado was passed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday.

“The Rio Grande Natural Area Act designates a pristine area around the Rio Grande River stretching from Alamosa into New Mexico. It will protect one of the most scenic natural areas in our state, and safeguard Colorado’s water rights as well,” Senator Allard said.

The Natural Area would consist of pristine land encompassing a quarter of a mile on each side of the Rio Grande River extending from the southern boundary of the Alamosa National Wildlife refuge to the New Mexico state line. In addition, the act would prevent a federal water right from being imposed on the protected area.

“I have been working on this project for several years. My legislation is the result of a collaborative effort among property owners, community members and elected representatives that has incorporated key agricultural and environmental concerns. These disparate groups have joined together to protect the San Luis Valley and Colorado’s unique heritage,” Senator Allard said. “I am pleased the full Senate agreed with me that this is a very worthy effort.”

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for approval.

#